ART:
MAHIRO SATOU
ORIGINAL STORY:
JIN (SHIZEN NO TEKI P)
CHARACTER DESIGN:
SIDU, WANNYANPOO

KAGEROU DAZE

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CHARACTERS

SHINTARO

A teenage boy who's been holed up in his house for the past two years.

ENE
(Takane Enomoto)

An innocent, naive "digital girl" who's taken up residence in Shintaro's computer.

MOMO

An ultra-popular singer with the "drawing eyes" ability. Shintaro's sister. Died after the "clearing eyes" snake dropped her off a building.

KIDO

Leader of the Mekakushi-dan. Possesses the "concealing eyes" ability. Killed when attacked by the "clearing eyes" snake.

KANO

Friends with Kido and Seto since childhood. Possesses the "deceiving eyes" ability.

SETO

A young man engaged in assorted part-time work. Possesses the "stealing eyes" ability.

MARIE

A young Medusa whose "locking eyes" ability lets her freeze people in their tracks.

KONOHA
(Haruka Kokonose)

A friend of Takane and Shintaro back when he was still Haruka. After an illness took his life, he worked with the Mekakushi-dan under the name Konoha.

HIBIYA

A boy who's come to visit the neighborhood with Hiyori. Controlled by the "clearing eyes" snake.

HIYORI

A girl who's come to visit Shintaro's neighborhood. A big fan of Momo. Infused with the "focusing eyes" ability.

AYANO

A girl whose "favoring eyes" ability lets her directly transmit feelings and emotions to others. She separated from Kano and the rest after trying to kill Marie.

STORY

The tale of the events of August 14 and 15.

Shintaro and Momo run into a pair of children, Hibiya and Hiyori. They soon become friends, but after relaying a cryptic message to Momo over the phone, Hiyori disappears. They later discover Hibiya alone and unconscious, but he has lost his memory of the recent past. On the same day, Shintaro and Momo come across Kido and Kano, who claim to be part of a secret organization. They are also pursuing Hibiya and Hiyori, and soon the entire group's goals, destinies, and anxieties crisscross—and it's all connected by a supernatural phenomenon known as "Kagerou Daze."

As Hibiya searches for the missing Hiyori, a mysterious girl approaches him. Using her ability to impart memories and emotions directly into anyone she wants, she reveals the truth behind the Kagerou Daze. She fears a snake with the "clearing eyes" ability is attempting to unite all the snakes that gave the rest of this group their own eerie skills into a single entity—and now it might be here, in the "worst possible form."

When Kano and Momo do find Hiyori, the scene is like something out of their worst nightmares: Hiyori, covered in blood, standing in front of a lifeless Kido. As he carries the fainted Momo back, Kano tells Ene about the lives of the Mekakushi-dan and how the snake has affected all of them.

After awakening to their skills, Kido, Kano, and Seto spent their early years at a juvenile home. Ayaka, a researcher studying the Medusa myths of the past, decided to adopt the three of them, making them siblings to her own daughter, Ayano.

Kido, Kano, Seto, and Ayano form the Mekakushi-dan, living as brothers and sisters despite any real blood relation. They are later joined by Marie, who stays on after suddenly being brought to their doorstep.

Once she realizes Marie is the child of a Medusa and that the children's abilities might affect their well-being—and their lives—Ayano resolves to protect her brothers and sisters.

However, en route to Marie's home in search of clues that might explain the children's abilities, Ayano and her parents are killed in an accident. Swallowed up by the Kagerou Daze, Ayano gains her own eye ability along with an insight into the true nature of the Kagerou Daze. In light of what she has learned, Ayano determines the only way to put an end to the tragedy is to kill Marie. The other children vehemently refuse, but she presses on, chasing after the "clearing eyes" snake.

Meanwhile, Shintaro attempts to track down Momo, who has gone off to search for Hiyori. Kano tells him that the "focusing eyes" ability has housed itself within Hiyori, not Hibiya. Just as he does, Shintaro spots Momo falling off of the building he's in—as Hibiya's maniacal laughter echoes from the up on the roof. The "clearing eyes" snake that killed Kido and Momo had instilled itself inside Hibiya, not Ayano.

As the group reels from Momo's death, Konoha appears. He apparently doesn't remember Ene, who then reveals that she was once Takane Enomoto, a friend of Konoha's back when he still lived as Haruka Kokonose.

Making a promise to attend school together, Shintaro leaves the hospital, but it isn't long before Haruka's illness finally takes him. Takane, who had been unable to see him before his death, is so shocked that she throws herself off the hospital roof. Shintaro becomes a recluse in his own bedroom, only to be visited by Takane's consciousness (under the name "Ene") in his computer...

Haruka met Takane at the hospital where he had been admitted for the management of his terminal illness. Playing video games together, they became fast friends, but just as Haruka felt he at last had something to live for, Takane was discharged. Shortly after, her vacancy is filled by Shintaro, who's admitted after a nasty fall. Despite Shintaro's distrust for other people, Haruka suggests they play a game, and the two become friends. Takane, seeing how well they get along, is too emotionally torn to see her friend.

With Shintaro paralyzed by Momo's death, the out-of-control "clearing eyes" snake has a fateful encounter with Ayano...!

SO I THOUGHT TO MYSELF:
I CAN'T LET THE DESPAIR RUN OUT...
THE DESPAIR THAT'S THE SOURCE OF THOSE WISHES.
IF I DON'T LET THE WISH BE FULFILLED IT ALL WORKS OUT.
THAT IS MY GOAL.

The snake reveals its intentions to Ayane. It and all the other snakes are obligated to fulfill their duty to make people's wishes come true. This being the case, "clearing eyes" has sought to sow despair, the root emotion driving all wishes, in order to prevent the snakes from disappearing. Marie's deep desperation has attracted the snake, who intends to make her its master.

As the snake declares that no one can stop this tale of despair, Konoha, Ene, and Hiyori arrive on the scene. The tables seem to have turned in their favor, but the "clearing eyes" snake throws itself into the path of an oncoming truck as it flees—and a smiling, black-haired Konoha emerges from the flames.

Hiyori and Ayano visit Kano and the rest in their hideout. Hiyori's optimism restores Kano's spirits, and she suggests that he speak with Ayano himself. Realizing their feelings are the same, Kano and Ayano patch things up, and they decide to work out their future strategy together. Ayano suggests using Marie's Medusa abilities to their advantage.

Meanwhile, Shintaro is obsessed with securing revenge for his sister, Momo's, death. The sight drives Ene to open up about her own past.

KAGEROU DAZE

MIN
(BUZZ)
MIN
MIN
MIN

...
MASTER...

...DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY WE MET?

IT WAS A TOTAL COINCI-DENCE...

...ME COMING TO YOUR PLACE.

...I SENT E-MAILS TO HUNDREDS OF ADDRESSES IN DESPERATION... AND I FOUND YOU.

...REALIZING I WAS LOCKED INSIDE THE NET...

HAVING THIS BODY...

BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, WHEN I STILL HAD A "REAL" BODY...

...I DIDN'T LIVE MUCH DIFFERENTLY MYSELF FOR A TIME.

I DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL MUCH, PLAYED VIDEO GAMES ALL DAY...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOUR ROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

LIKE, "WHOA, IT'S FILTHY! I TOTALLY CAME TO THE WRONG PLACE!"

SO...

...I DUNNO, MAYBE I FEEL SOME SYMPATHY.

I WAS NEVER TOO HEALTHY, BUT I STILL CARRIED ON LIKE THAT...

...SO I WAS IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL A LOT.

I DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS OR ANYTHING.

IT WAS A REALLY ROUGH WAY TO LIVE, YOU KNOW?

WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, MASTER...

...YOU REMINDED ME A LOT OF THE OLD ME.

PLUS...

...I KNOW ALL TOO WELL HOW THAT FEELS.

...WHEN IT COMES TO LOSING A FRIEND YOU HOLD DEAR...

PITA (FREEZE)

...I GUESS I NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT HIM, HUH?

...YOU KNOW?

ABOUT HIM?

WELL, NO.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, NOT REALLY.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS KIND OF RUNNING AWAY...

...FROM CON-FRONTING THAT.

PI (BIP)

PI

…

…

ON THE DAY HARUKA DIED...

...I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.

I REALIZED I HADN'T PICKED UP ON A SINGLE THING ABOUT HIM...

...AND IT JUST MADE MY MIND BLANK OUT.

IT'S FINE.

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR PITY.

I DID THIS TO MYSELF.

I THINK I MUST HAVE REALLY LIKED HIM.

I...

SEEING YOU GET ALONG WITH HARUKA, MASTER...

...IT WAS LIKE, "I DON'T EVEN NEED TO BE HERE."

BUT I DECIDED I COULDN'T TELL HIM, SO INSTEAD I ENDED UP AVOIDING HIM ALTOGETHER.

BUT...

...GOD HAS SOME FUNNY IDEAS, DOESN'T HE?

SO RIGHT UP TO THE VERY END...

...I KEPT RUNNING FROM ALL THE HARD STUFF...AND HERE'S THE RESULT.

...I WAS A TOTAL IDIOT, I SWEAR.

I THOUGHT I'D TOSSED AWAY MY FUTURE...

...BUT JUST FOR A LAUGH, HE HANDED IT RIGHT BACK TO ME ANYWAY.

RUNNING INTO YOU, MASTER, DOING ALL THIS CRAZY STUFF EVERY DAY...

KIRA

KIRA (TWINKLE)

MAKING MY FIRST GIRL-FRIEND IN MY LIFE...

鎖国

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR SISTER...

NONOTOWN

...BUT IT WAS SO MUCH FUN, I ALMOST FELT I WASN'T WORTHY.
IT SEEMED ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE WE COULD BE HAVING THOSE DAYS TOGETHER...
IT WAS ALWAYS SO SCARY TO ME.
...THE MORE I FELT THAT I DIDN'T DESERVE IT.
THE MORE FUN IT SEEMED TO ME...

I THINK RIGHT TO THE VERY END...

...HARUKA WANTED TO KEEP ON LIVING ALONGSIDE HIS FRIENDS.

TAKING HIS PLACE.

I FELT LIKE I HAD TO BECOME YOUR FRIEND INSTEAD.

THAT'S WHY I WAS BY YOUR SIDE.

I THREW EVERYTHING AWAY, BUT THERE I WAS, LIVING OUT WHAT HE COULD ONLY HOPE FOR.

YOU CAN'T GET MORE UNFAIR THAN THAT.

...I...

I MEAN, I DON'T DESERVE THIS.

BUT...

BECOMING FRIENDS WITH YOU...

...I...

...I FEEL LIKE THAT REALLY SAVED ME.

SO...

...I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY...

...MY "WISH" WAS GRANTED LONG AGO.

I WAS ABLE TO FIND SOME REAL MEANING...

...IN A LIFE SPENT CONSTANTLY RUNNING AWAY.

AND I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT WITHOUT YOU.

SO MUCH SO, YOU CAN BE SOMEONE'S SALVATION.

I KNOW THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN CRITICAL OF ME, MASTER.

BUT...

...YOU'RE KINDER THAN JUST ABOUT ANYONE.

GU CCLENCHO

AND I THINK...

...THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO ONLY YOU CAN RESCUE.

SO—

...ME TOO.

I...

...WAS SAVED BY YOU TOO.

I'M...I'M SO GLAD I MET YOU...

...WHAT AN HONOR.

IT'S BEEN A LOT OF FUN...

TO ME...

...YOU'RE THE GREATEST "MASTER" I COULD EVER HAVE.

...SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.